Remarks

In this Response, claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1 to 20 remain pending. The title has been amended. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is view of the amendments above and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Procedural Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for a failure to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation "the conductive outer shell connectors" in claim 1. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "the conductive outer shell conductors." Applicants submit that claim 1 is now in condition for immediate allowance and reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner also objected to the title of the application as being not descriptive. While Applicants do not agree with the Examiner regarding the original title, the title has been amended in the interest of expediting examination of the present application. Applicants submit that the title as amended is now descriptive of the invention disclosed in the present application and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claim 16 for a typographical error and required correction of the misspelling. Claim 16 has been amended to correct the spelling of "bushing" and withdrawal of the objection to claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Substantive Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Tang, U.S. Patent No. 6,299,479. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites in part, a coaxial cable signal splitter including first, second and third connector ends, each connector end adapted to mate with and electrically connect to a mating coaxial connector. The first connector end is integral with a splitter body and the second and third connector ends are connected to the body by a pair of flexible coaxial cables. The splitter body includes the first connector end and an opposing end with a cable mounting arrangement for connecting the pair of coaxial cables to the splitter body. The splitter body also includes a transverse opening between the first connector end and the cable mounting arrangement, the

transverse opening extending through the splitter body and having opposing open sides. Within the transverse opening, the center conductor of the first connector end is electrically connected with center conductors of the second and third connector ends.

In contrast, Tang shows a splitter body having only a single open side and no transverse opening with opposing open sides extending through the splitter body between the first connector end and the cable mounting arrangement. Tang teaches an open sided housing 14 with an interior volume 16 within which is mounted a printed circuit board 18. There is no disclosure that interior volume 16 may be accessed from both sides of housing 14. Even if such an opening were present, circuit board 18 closes off any transverse opening through housing 14 that might be present.

Further, the Examiner appears to be associating F-connector assemblies 12 with both the first connector end which is integral to the splitter body of claim 1 and the second and third connectors which are connected to the body by flexible coaxial cables. If one of the connector assemblies 12 is indeed a connector end integral with the splitter body 14, then the other two connector assemblies 12 are also integral with body 14. Thus, the remaining two connector assemblies 12 of Tang are not connected to the body by flexible coaxial cables, as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited prior art and that claim 1 is in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 7 depend from and further limit claim 1. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 2 to 7 are not anticipated by the cited prior art and that claims 2 to 7 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claim 8, as amended, recites in part a coaxial splitter body including a first end including an integral electrically conductive outer shell of a coaxial cable connector and an opposite second end including a pair of electrically conductive crimp extensions for mounting a pair of coaxial cables. A central opening extends transversely through the splitter body and is positioned between the first and second ends. The first and second ends are connected only by a pair of side walls on either side of the central opening, and the side walls are electrically connecting the outer shell and the crimp extensions.

As noted above with regard to claim 1, Tang shows a splitter body having only a single open side and no transverse opening extending through the splitter body between open sides and positioned between the first connector end and the cable mounting arrangement. There is only a single open side disclosed in Tang. There is a wall behind circuit board 18 which extends between the two ends of the splitter housing, in addition to the side walls extending therebetween.

The connector assemblies 12 are configured to receive a mating coaxial connector mounted to a coaxial cable or other device. The two connector assemblies 12 mounted to the same side of the splitter body are not crimp extensions for mounting coaxial cables, as recited in claim 8.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 8 is not anticipated by the cited prior art and that claim 8 is in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 9 to 14 depend from and further limit claim 8. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 8, Applicants submit that claims 9 to 14 are not anticipated by the cited prior art and that claims 9 to 14 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claim 15, as amended, recites in part a method of assembling a coaxial cable splitter, including providing a splitter body with a first end defining a first cable connector end, a second opposing end including a first cable mounting arrangement and a second cable mounting arrangement. The splitter body defines a transverse opening extending through the body between opposing open sides and positioned between the first and second ends of the splitter body. A first center conductor is inserted within a first insulator and positioning the first center conductor and the first insulator within the first end of the splitter body, with a rear end of the first center conductor extending within the transverse opening. A center conductor and a center conductor insulative jacket sheath of a first coaxial cable is inserted through the first cable mounting arrangement and into the transverse opening. A center conductor and a center conductor insulative jacket sheath of a second coaxial cable is inserted through the second cable mounting arrangement and into the transverse opening. A portion each of the center conductors of the coaxial cables extends from the respective insulative jacket sheaths. The extended portion of each center conductor is accessed through the open sides of the splitter body and intertwined

within the transverse opening. The intertwined portions of each center conductor of the coaxial cables are positioned within a notch formed in the rear end of the center conductor of the first end to electrically connect the center conductors.

As noted above, Tang does not disclose a splitter body with a transverse opening extending between open sides. Tang further does not disclose that tails 36 of center conductors (clip pins 34) of any of the connector assemblies 12 are interwined with each other or that an intertwined portion of two center conductors would be positioned within a slot of the other center conductor. As disclosed in Tang, the center conductors are connected by a soldered wire 40 to circuit board 18 or soldered directly to board 18 at a terminal 42. With circuit board 18 providing circuitry to electrically connect the three center conductors, there is no need to directly physically connect the three center conductors, as recited in claim 15.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 15 is not anticipated by the cited prior art and that claim 15 is in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from and further limit claim 15. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 15, Applicants submit that claims 16 and 17 are not anticipated by the cited prior art and that claims 16 and 17 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claim 18 recites in part a coaxial cable signal splitter including a first coaxial connector including a first conductive body with a first end defining a coaxial connector end and an opposite end defining two parallel hollow crimp extensions, the opposite end spaced from the first end along a longitudinal axis of the first conductive body. The conductive body also includes an intermediate portion defining a transverse opening extending through the first conductive body transverse to a longitudinal axis. The intermediate portion also includes first and second side walls on opposite sides of the transverse opening and spaced on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis. The intermediate portion further includes first and second end walls on opposite ends of the traverse opening and spaced from each other along the longitudinal axis. A conductive crimp sleeve is mounted over each of the crimp extensions. A flexible coaxial cable is mounted to each of the crimp extensions beneath the crimp sleeve.

Tang, as noted above, does not disclose a conductive body with a transverse opening extending through the body. Housing 14 of Tang does not include crimp extension for mounting

cables but includes three identical connector assemblies 12 which receive coaxial connectors, not coaxial cables. There are no crimp sleeves disclosed in Tang. The coaxial connectors of Tang are all mounted directly to housing 14 and none of are mounted at a distal end of a coaxial cable which is mounted by crimping to housing 14.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 18 is not anticipated by the cited prior art and that claim 18 is in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from and further limit claim 18. For at least the reasons cited above with regard to claim 18, Applicants submit that claims 19 and 20 are not anticipated by the cited prior art and that claims 19 and 20 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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